

203259US6



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
Kazuyuki TAKIZAWA, et al. : EXAMINER: CAO, A.
SERIAL NO: 09/783,997 :
FILED: FEBRUARY 16, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2652

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6/23/03
OK

FOR: DISC SUPPORT PLATE, DISC CHANGER MECHANISM, AND DISC
RECORDING AND/OR REPRODUCING DEVICE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

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SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement stated in the Office Action dated May 16, 2003, Applicants provisionally elect Group (Invention) I, Claims 13-26, drawn to a disc support plate apparatus, classified in class 369, subclass 192.

Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Restriction Requirement. The Restriction Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to patentably distinct inventions. However, MPEP § 803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

In the present application, Claim 13 is directed to a disc support plate, Claims 23 and 25 are each directed to a device for recording and/or reproducing a disc including the disc support plate, and Claims 24 and 26 are each directed to a changer mechanism for discs

including the disc support plate, and Claim 27 is directed to a *method* for manufacturing the disc support plate. Hence, it appears that the claims in the present application are part of an overlapping search area and that a search for Claims 13-26 would necessarily include the subclass required for a search directed to Claims 27-31 as well. It is therefore believed that there is no undue burden on the Examiner to search all the claims under MPEP § 803, and Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 13-31 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Masayasu Mori
Registration No. 47,301
Attorneys of Record



22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
GJM/MM/YO:jm
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